

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043808

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, CVIS, CH

SUBJECT: VISAS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO THE PRC

1. IN REQUESTING VISAS THROUGH PRCLO FOR CONSULTATION VISITS TO USLO, DEPARTMENT'S PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO STATE PURPOSE OF TRAVEL ONLY AS "ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS". PRCLO, HOWEVER, HAS FREQUENTLY CONTACTED DEPARTMENT BY TELEPHONE TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED AND PURPOSE OF TRAVEL. WE ARE PLANNING TO STATE PURPOSE OF TRAVEL SOMEWHAT MORE SPECIFICALLY ON FUTURE VISA REQUEST FORM LETTERS AND DIPLOMATIC NOTES, E.G., "ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO USLO" OR "ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH USLO." WE WOULD NOT THEN NORMALLY GIVE FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE VISA REQUEST. (FOR THOSE BEING PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO PEKING WE WOULD CONTINUE TO SIMPLY STATE PURPOSE OF TRAVEL AS "ON ASSIGNMENT TO USLO PEKING" AND PROVIDE NO FURTHER INFORMATION.)

2. IN CONSIDERING HOW TO HANDLE TDY VISA REQUESTS, A KEY QUESTION IS WHETHER PERSONNEL WOULD NEED TO BE "ACCREDITED", E.G., BY USLO NOTE TO MFA, IN ORDER TO HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC

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PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AND TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY,

E.G., IN CONTACTS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE USLO'S COMMENTS ON PARA (2). WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW: (1) WHAT INFORMATION MFA PROVIDES IN REQUESTING VISAS FOR PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO PRCLO; AND (2) WHETHER OR NOT WHEN YOU HAVE REQUESTED VISAS FOR TEMPORARY DUTY OR CONSULTATION VISITS TO USLO, MFA HAS FREQUENTLY SOUGHT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS TO PURPOSE OF VISIT.

KISSINGER

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